

RECORD of Parent Forum Meeting held on 18th September 2018

Present: Lucy Barringer (LB); Nerys Deutsch (ND) - Chair; Kate Jarvis (KJ); and Christina Ruso (CR) joined the meeting.
Carl Gendre (CG) (Assistant Headteacher); and Anita Shelton (AKS) (Office Manager)

1. Review of Actions from Last Meetings:

It was acknowledged that all actions had been either addressed or superceded.

2. Review of Terms of Reference

CG and ND had reviewed the Terms of Reference as agreed in the last academic year. It was acknowledged that the Parent Forum has a different remit to the Governing Body, which has a very clear role but may call on the Parent Forum, and to the PTA. The Parent Forum is about how parents can support the school.

CG advised that a teacher has offered to take the lead on setting up a viable PTA following the chairing issues last year.

ND advised that there are currently 11 parents/carers in the WhatsApp group; she is reminding them that they can participate even if unable to attend meetings.

CG stressed that responses/decisions will often not be possible at the meetings; issues/concerns will be taken to the Headteacher. The aim is for matters to be raised and addressed in a timely fashion. ND acknowledged that all matters will need to be prioritised appropriately.

KJ pointed out that parents want to be part of the school; that they are on the same side, and not 'having a go' - it's about being constructive and supportive.

It was agreed that, with a new Chair and a new school leader, the Parent Forum would start afresh.

3. Suggested Autumn 2018-2019 Foci

a) How to support the PTA

KJ advised that, having been involved in the PTA, some events had involved a great deal of work for little profit.

Once the PTA is up and running, ND will update WhatsApp with information.

b) Homework System

The meeting pointed out that the changes to the homework system had not been communicated to parents/carers; some classes received brief information, others none at all.

(Q) KJ asked if parents are permitted to purchase a book for their child to use.

Perceived benefits of using the folder were discussed; CR expressed frustration with new homework books having been issued each year even when they were far from full. **(S)** It was suggested that line guides could be provided for younger children. **(S)** It was agreed that an overview sheet, explaining the new system, would be useful.

(S) Once the system has been communicated properly to parents, a questionnaire may be sent to parents for their views.

c) Gender Gaps

KJ advised that, from talking to parents, there is a concern that the boy/girl difference for St Mary's is greater than for National (Phonics). **(Q)** Parents would like to know how this is being addressed by the school, including what CPD is being provided for teachers.

CG advised that the school has recently completed a data checking process of last year's results, and carries out regular reviews of progress and achievement. He stressed the importance of parents speaking to their child's class teacher about their own child's progress and attainment if they have concerns. He assured the meeting that SLT and the governing body review results and issues such as this are addressed within the school improvement plan. CG agreed to establish with SLT how much information from the School Improvement Plan can be shared with parents/carers.

(S) Some suggestions were made, e.g. photographs of men reading with children to be displayed in the school; fathers to be encouraged to read with their son/s.

d) Individual Pupil Recognition at Sports Day

KJ pointed out that there was no recognition for individual pupils' effort or achievement at sports day; she **(S)** suggested that the children coming 1st/2nd/3rd in their races be given a coloured sticker. She suggested that the school Rewards system is not currently being applied across all areas – sports; academic; acting/singing; etc.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.

Key:

(Q) – Question raised and not answered at the meeting.

(S) – Suggestion to be put forward to GI/SLT.

Dates/Times of 2018-2019 Meetings:

Tuesday 20th November, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday 24th January, 2:00 p.m.

Monday 18th March, 9:00 a.m.

Friday 17th May, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 3rd July, 2:00 p.m.